

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, IR

SUBJECT: 1966 INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE CONVENTION
CERTIFICATE PROBLEM

1. USCG INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT ABOUT NINE IRANIAN
FLAG TANKERS (NAMES OF VESSELS AND COMPANIES UNAVAILABLE)
WERE INADVERTENTLY ISSUED 1966 INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE
CONVENTION (ILLC) CERTIFICATES BY LLOYDS REGISTRY OF
SHIPPING (UK), ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CLASSIFI-
CATION SOCIETIES. IRAN IS NOT A PARTY TO THE CONVENTION
WHICH INTER ALIA FORBIDS THE ISSUANCE OF ILLC CERTIFICATES
TO VESSELS OF NONCONTRACTING PARTIES.

2. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS 1966 CERTIFICATES WILL BE REVOKED
AND LOAD LINE CERTIFICATES UNDER THE 1930 FREEBOARDS
AGREEMENT WILL BE ISSUED TOGETHER WITH USCG AUTHORIZED
FORM B CERTIFICATES WHICH ARE GRANTED UNDER US DOMESTIC
REGULATIONS TO QUALIFIED VESSELS OF NONCONTRACTING
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NATIONS THAT CALL IN US WATERS.

3. WHILE MANY PARTIES TO 1966 ILLC CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE 1930 CERTIFICATES, THE USG DOES NOT. THE USG RENOUNCED THE 1930 FREEBOARDS AGREEMENT ON RATIFICATION OF THE 1966 ILLC WHICH IS NOW US LAW. ONLY LATTER' S PROVISIONS AND CERTIFICATES NOW VALID IN US WATERS. FROM SAFETY STANDPOINT USG BELIEVES 1966 ILLC SUPERIOR TO 1930

AGREEMENT AS IT REQUIRES THE MASTER OF A VESSEL TO BE SUPPLIED SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ENABLE HIM TO ARRANGE THE LOADING AND BALLASTING OF HIS SHIPS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID THE CREATION OF ANY UNACCEPTABLE STRESSES IN THE SHIP' S STRUCTURE UNDER VARYING CONDITIONS OF SERVICE. FURTHERMORE, FOR SHIPPING COMPANIES CONVENTION HAS ADDED ADVANTAGE IN THAT IT PERMITS THEIR VESSELS TO BE LOADED DEEPER THAN UNDER 1930 AGREEMENT PROVISIONS.

4. FOREGOING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED EMBASSY IN CASE IT RECEIVES AN INQUIRY OR COMPLAINT FROM GOI SINCE THESE IRANIAN VESSELS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LOAD AS MUCH PETROLEUM WITH 1930 AGREEMENT LOAD LINES AND APPLICABLE CERTIFICATES. EMBASSY MAY HOWEVER AT ITS DISCRETION DISCUSS SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH GOI AUTHORITIES AND URGE ADHERENCE TO 1966 ILLC. CIRCULAR AIRGRAMON ADHERENCE TO 1966 ILLC BY NONCONTRACTING NATIONS TO BE DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY TO APPROPRIATE EMBASSIES. RUSH

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